

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 4-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 4-8, 13 and 15 are amended. The amendments to the claims add no new matter as they are supported at least by the claims as originally filed. Claims 3 and 16 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Reconsideration of the application based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 4, indicates that claims 3-8 recite allowable subject matter. Applicant appreciates this indication of allowability. The amendments to claims 2, 13, and 15 are undertaken based on this indication of allowability.

The Office Action, on page 2, rejects claims 2 and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,887,343 to Salatino et al. (hereinafter "Salatino") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,278,193 B1 to Coico et al. (hereinafter "Coico"). The Office Action, on page 3, rejects claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Salatino in view of Coico as applied to claim 2 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,355,976 to Faris. The Office Action, on page 4, rejects claims 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Salatino in view of Coico further in view of Faris as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,923,996 to Shin et al. (hereinafter "Shin"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

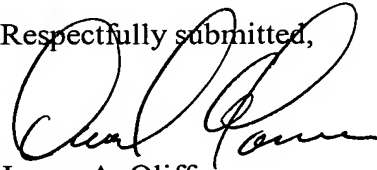
Independent claims 2, 13 and 15 are amended to incorporate the indicated allowable subject matter recited in now-canceled claim 3. As such, claims 2, 13 and 15 are allowable over the prior art of record. Further, claims 4-12 and 14 are allowable over the prior art of record for at least the respective dependence of these claims directly or indirectly on claims 2 and 13, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of these claims recites.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2 and 9-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over any of combination of the applied prior art references are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2 and 9-15, in addition to the indicated allowable subject matter of claims 4-8, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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